

Exhaust Notes

January, 2017 Edition

The official magazine of



Wrapping Up the Year Building Up

A camera doesn't make it to all of our chapter events, but it does make it to some. We'll take a minute to highlight some of our Chapter events (and some others) from 2016 here:

Visit to Dale Oakes' Euro Classics

Visit to Dale Oakes, Euro Classics



June 18 Miami Valley Chapter Judging Meet

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Photos by Nick Kammer





The Miami Valley Chapter NCRS wishes to congratulate the following participants in this year's Chapter Meet:

James Henry: 1967 Chapter Second Flight

James Reid: 1967 Chapter Top Flight

Tom Brooks: 1968 Chapter Second Flight

Emanuele Tosolini: 1978 Chapter Top Flight



Mike Mills' Fall Road Tour

MIKE MILLS' FALL ROAD TOUR

Annual Fall Dinner Cruise-

The sunny weather and clear skies on September 25th was enjoyed by 9 drivers for the fun filled adventures of the annual Club Road Tour and Dinner. We had 1 Mid-Year (Mike Mills), 2 C3's (Terry Brim & Nick Kammer), Tony Molisse FRC C5, Mike Mills' C6, and 4 C7's (Jeff Bernhardt, Klaus Huber, Jerry Swain & Ron Fadell). The cruise went through the back roads of Greene County crossing through the Country Club of the North. The cruise involved some elevation changes, tree lined roads and tight turns, definitely the roads Corvette drivers love. A last minute addition was to travel STRT 42 from Spring Valley to Waynesville to avoid gravel/tar slurry common this time of year on back county roads. This was an awesome addition as many drivers took the 4 lane divided highway w/ no traffic to pass and cruise along the side of fellow club members. Nick Kammer used the opportunity to roll all the way to the front, so everyone could see him & Lynn enjoying the cold blowing AC in his 72 coupe. Once we made it through downtown Waynesville, we went back to the winding country back roads of Waynesville/Oregonia including the crossing of the picturesque Corwin/Nixon covered bridge. The cruise was 50 minutes and the group stayed together from start to finish.



We arrived at the Little River Cafe where John Tuss met us for the dinner. All cruisers and their significant others enjoyed patio seating to the setting sun. Unfortunately the Little River Café seemed to be out of most menu items and service was extremely slow. While our meal took over an hour to find our table, great conversation and laughter was had by all. Everyone enjoyed a brisk cruise home at dusk. With the success of this event, you can count on the annual MVC NCRS annual road tour will continue next year with a divided highway baked into the route someplace.

I'm a Corvette Guy

By
John Tuss

As one of the newer members of the Miami Valley NCRS chapter, I've heard and read many interesting stories of how other members developed their Corvette passion. I'd like to add my story to that library, so here it goes.

I certainly did not inherit an interest in cars from my father. Even though he was an engineer, a B-17 pilot in WW II and seemingly able to fix just about anything around the house, he was decidedly uninterested in cars as anything but transportation appliances. He did, however, always encourage my younger brother and me to build things, including plastic scale models. Of course airplanes were Dad's first choice, but cars were OK, too. One day wandering around the hobby shop inside the old Salem Lane IGA while Mom was grocery shopping, I saw this on the shelf:



Building a Corvette would be way more fun than some boring Impala or T-Bird. Mom let me buy it, starting my interest in Corvettes. In fact, I still have that 1964 Corvette. It's been stock, customized, a racer, and ended up as a mutt, but it's still here.



Fast forward to spring 1968. My older cousin Bert (Sonny) Danyi Jr. always had cool cars. His dad, Bert Sr., did quite well as the owner of the Pastime Bowling Lanes and Lounge on N Dixie Drive. Sonny was the beneficiary of Bert Sr.'s success in the form of a new '68 Corvette coupe. Corvette Bronze, black interior, 427 (400 or 435, all I remember is that big triangular chrome air cleaner), 4 speed. One day Sonny brought it over to show my parents – man, was I impressed! Idling in the driveway it sounded like a P-51 fighter plane. At 15 years old all I could do was take a ride, but what a ride! I seemed to be sitting on the ground, surrounded by the most instruments I'd ever seen in any car. The style, the sound, the acceleration! I was hooked. I swore to myself that very afternoon that someday I would own a Corvette.

Well, you all know the story after that. A Corvette was definitely *not* in my budget as a college student or high school science teacher. After getting hired at WPAFB in 1978 I was actually making enough to start looking, but then came that serious girlfriend, marriage, two kids, yadda, yadda, yadda...once again the Corvette dream is on the back burner.

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Fast forward again, now to 1993. The marriage didn't work out but the Corvette dream was still there. Now I was determined to make it happen, saving my nickels and dimes where ever I could. I also met and started dating a wonderful woman named Cindy. One Saturday morning we were trying to decide what to do that day and out of the blue I said that I wanted to start looking at Corvettes. At first she thought I was full of B.S., but I convinced her I was serious. I also didn't know until then that she had previously "owned" two Corvettes, courtesy of a program at Delco Chassis, where she worked. Back in the day, Delco had a yearly Corvette "lottery" where one employee would get a new Corvette to drive for a year for a nominal monthly payment, just like a GM exec. At the end of the year you could buy it or turn it back in. She loved the cars but could not afford to buy them on her secretary's salary, so they were returned. My new girlfriend was a Corvette girl! I hit the mother lode! Here are the two she "won":



Thus began "The Great Corvette Search". Every free weekend was spent driving far and wide looking at Corvettes. In those pre-internet days you actually had to go see the cars, which made the search more fun. After months of looking we found this 1988 coupe in Piqua:



It checked all of the right boxes. Bright Red/red interior, Z52 performance package, 4+3 manual trans, Bose stereo. Finally, my first Corvette.

That first Corvette stuck around until 2004. During those years saving for my children's college, house payments, 401K contributions, etc., all took precedent over another Corvette. But by 2004 a new Corvette was starting to look affordable. Plus, I saw a pre-production C6 in person, pacing the 2004 Indy 500. Just like way back in 1968, I was hooked by the new Corvette. Add in some prodding from Cindy: "John, you should own at least one new Corvette in your life" and how could I resist?

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On April 21, 2005 this showed up at Voss Chevrolet:



Red/red, of course. Z-51, 6-speed. Only took 37 years to get my first (and maybe last?) new Corvette.

Fast forward once again to 2013. I loved my C6, but pictures and stories about a 7th generation Corvette were starting to appear. Would I betray my trusty C6? Toss it aside for a flashy new model? Fortunately, a good friend always told me if I wanted to sell the C6 he wanted first dibs. He was even willing to part ways with his long-term '66 Mustang GT to get into a late model Corvette. The deal was

done! My C6 has gone to a wonderful new home and a C7 now occupies its former place in my garage.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, another red/red Corvette with a manual trans and the Z-51 option. Hey, like John Heinricy says in that famous Corvette book, "All Corvettes are red, the rest are mistakes!"

So how does a guy who's only owned late model Corvettes end up in the local NCRS chapter?

Blame Dave Pritchard and Mike Mills, both who I met at WPAFB. They convinced me that the Miami Valley Chapter is a great organization to join no matter what generation of Corvette you drive. They were right. I get to experience (and drive) vintage Corvettes courtesy of my fellow members. I'm continuously learning new things about old Corvettes. I've been inspired to join the Board of Directors as Secretary. Most importantly I've made great new friendships that go far beyond the cars that started it all. Looks like I'll stay a Corvette guy forever.



Non-Chapter related Corvette stuff

Non-Chapter related Corvette stuff



Mike Mills hauls Dave Pritchard to Corvettes at Carlisle in Mike's '66 big block roadster.



The National Corvette Museum, with the assistance of the Corvette Club of Rhode Island, presents "Marble and Glass Corvette Weekend" in Newport, Rhode Island May 18-22, 2016. The trip includes mansion tours, an ocean drive Corvette cruise, Fort Adams tour, America's Cup 12-meter yacht charter, scenic bus tour of historic Newport, shopping on Bowens and Bannister Wharf, a clam bake at the Atlantic Beach Club, Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay Schooner Sail and much more! GPS highly recommended.

We want to thank the Corvette Club of Rhode Island and NCM Board Member Randy Flock for heading the trip and graciously stepping up to put this fun-filled, beautiful 'Marble and Glass Corvette Weekend' together. Special thanks also go to Paul Masse Chevrolet – Corvette Club of Rhode Island sponsor – for generously providing free trolley service for our guests on Friday.

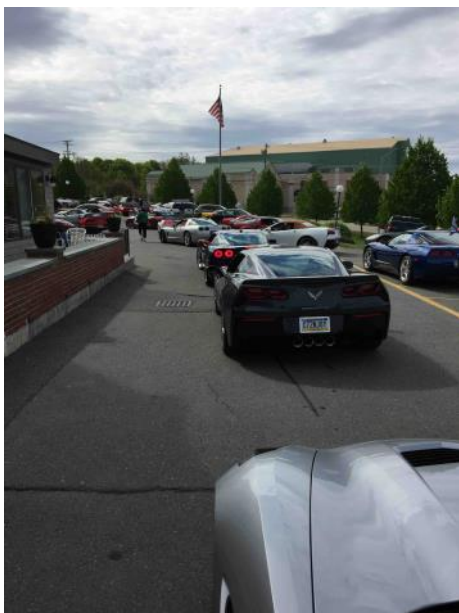


Jeff Bernhardt here; This trip was a blast!

Karren and I drove the '16 from home to Newport and joined over 100 other Corvettes for this event, full of excursions, outings, sight-seeing boat rides and food. We made some great friends also!

Can you spy the ghost stripes?

Marble & Glass continued



Heading out on an excursion; a beautiful view of the harbor; and some of the Corvettes gathered in the parking lot of the hotel.



The Restoration Station Annual Road Tour.



The Gathering before the launch to the 19th Annual Tour. A record 333 Corvettes gathered this year!

Below: We hit the road!

Photos by Nancy Lane



The halfway point (and gathering) was again at Caesar Creek State Park in order to have enough room to accommodate us.

Photo by Maya Chandler



Keep checking your Chapter Website for more information on upcoming Chapter events. If you miss out on something, it's your own fault!